



DISASTER NEWS

Economic Injury Loans for Small Businesses

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SBA DISASTER LOANS AVAILABLE FOLLOWING SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE DISASTER DESIGNATION

Norfolk, VA - Small businesses dependent upon agriculture located in declared counties of Virginia are eligible to apply for low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration. These loans are available to help offset economic losses that occurred due to reduced revenues of farmers and ranchers caused by adverse weather conditions.

Small businesses in the following primary and adjacent counties may apply for economic losses, as follows:

Northampton (adjacent county of **Accomack** in Virginia) – excessive rain that occurred on July 15, 2004 and continuing

Typically, farm implement dealers, crop sprayers, and feed, seed and fertilizer wholesalers and retailers are impacted the most. In communities dependent upon agriculture, Main Street small businesses may be adversely affected as well.

“Businesses primarily engaged in farming or ranching are ineligible under this particular disaster loan program. However, farmers and ranchers may seek financial assistance through the local SBA district office or from the Farm Service Agency,” said SBA Disaster Area Director William E. Leggiero, Jr.

Loans may be approved for up to \$1.5 million for the actual disaster-related needs of the business. Interest rates are 2.75 percent and terms may extend to 30 years, depending upon the repayment ability of the individual applicant. To qualify, businesses must be small by SBA’s size standards.

Small businesses that can meet their financial needs through personal resources or commercial lenders are not eligible under SBA’s disaster loan program.

“By law, SBA makes Economic Injury Disaster Loans available when the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture designates an agricultural disaster,” added Leggiero.

Applications and further information can be obtained by calling the SBA toll free at **1-800-659-2955** or for the hearing-impaired **1-800-877-8339**. Completed disaster loan applications must be returned to SBA no later than August 15, 2005.

For more information visit SBA’s website at www.sba.gov/disaster

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SBA Disaster Assistance Office/Area 1 - 360 Rainbow Blvd., South - Niagara Falls, NY 14303